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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAY 9 2006

International Application No.:

PCT/EP03/012599

International Filing Date:

11 November 2003

Barnes & Thornburg LLP Customer No.

Priority Date:

11 November 2003

23646

Title:

RAPID COUPLING

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Inventors:

MEIER, Ulrich and GREMINGER, Hans

REQUEST TO BEGIN NATIONAL EXAMINATION

Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicants herewith submit to the United States Designated Office after publication and before 30 months from the priority date the following items under 35 U.S.C. § 371:

- 1. This is an express request to immediately begin national examination procedures under 35 U.S.C. § 371(f);
- 2. English Translation of the subject PCT Application and the amended claims under Article 34 PCT:
- 3. Preliminary Amendment;

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- 4. Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 and cited references; and
- 5. The filing fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS AS FILED, LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELLED OR ADDED BY AMENDMENT

For	No. Filed		No. Extra	Large Entity	Total	
National Stage Basic Fee:				\$300	\$	300.00
National Stage Search Fee:				\$400	\$	400.00
National Stage Examination Fee :				\$200	\$_	200.00
Total Claims:	6	- 20	0	x \$50	\$_	00.00
Independent Claims:	1	- 3	0	x \$200	\$	00.00
TOTAL FEES:					\$	900.00

- 6. A check in the amount of \$900.00 is enclosed.
- 7. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Barnes & Thornburg LLP Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (967/44780).

Perry Palan

Reg. No. 26,213